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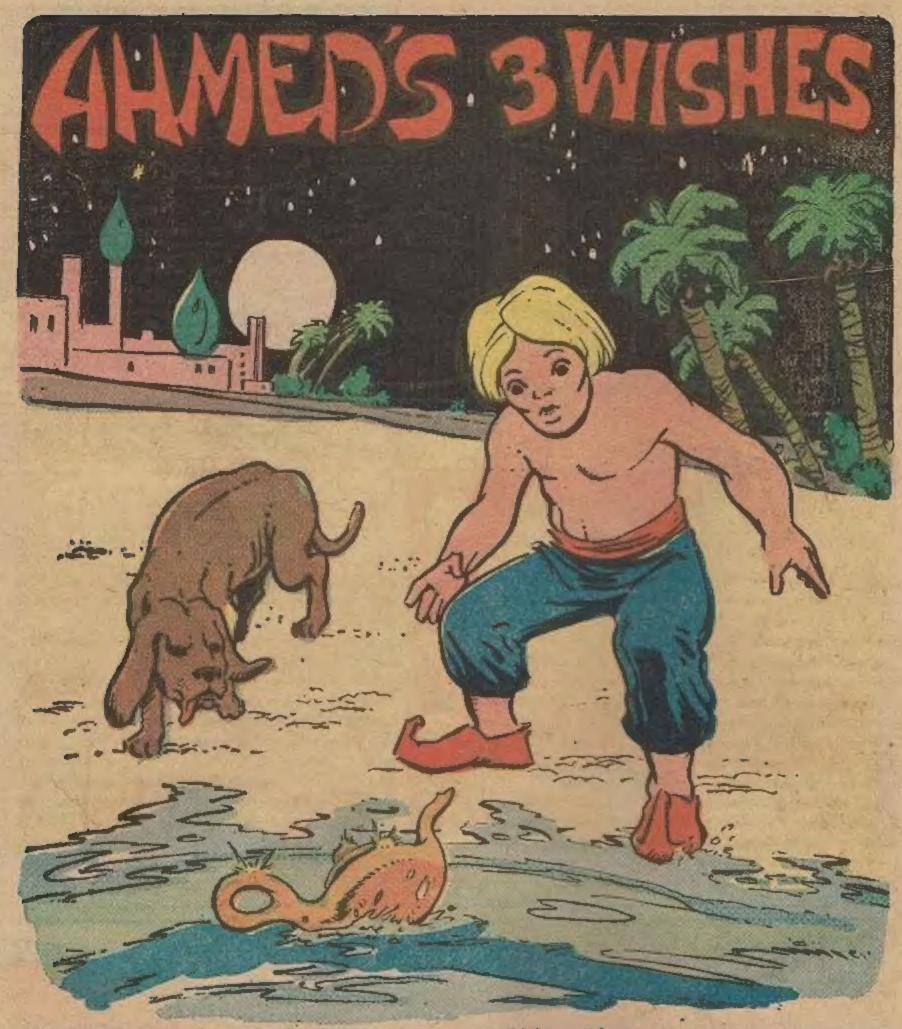












Anmed was an orphan who lived in Bagdad. Ahmed lived by his wits. He had no one to feed or care for him. The only friend he had in the world was his faithful mengrel dog named Akim. Ahmed and Akim lived by begging money from wealthy merchants. If they pleaded convincingly enough, they were able to buy food for their supper. If they didn't melt the stone hearts of fat merchants with their pitiful stories, they went hungry.

One night, Ahmed and Akim were walking along the beach near the ocean. It was a warm, summer night and the full moon was high in the sky. The sound of the rolling waves was sweet music to Ahmed's ears.

"I wish I awned a ship," Ahmed said. "I would sail to distant parts and have many exciting adventures. I

would be a rich man. We would never be hungry again. We would eat the finest foods money could buy," remarked Ahmed. Akim wagged his tail and barked in agreement.

Ahmed looked up at the stars. "I'm foolish. I make wishes and I know they can't come true. No one but a genie can grant wishes. It must be wonderful to own a magic lamp that has a genie living inside it," said Ahmed.

Just then, Ahmed saw a huge wave wash a strange object up onto the sandy beach. The object was made of metal and it twinkled in the moonlight. "What is that? It looks like a lamp of some kind," shouted Ahmed. The boy ran towards the strange gleaming lamp and Akim followed him. Ahmed picked up the

weather-beaten lamp. It was very, very old. "I wonder if it could be a magic lamp? I wender if there is a genie inside, it? There is only one way to find out," the boy said. Ahmed rubbed the side of the lamp with the palm of his hand.

Suddenly, the lamp started to shake. Thick, gray smoke bellowed out of its spout. Ahmed drapped the lamp. He watched in amazement as the clouds of smoke formed the body of a tall, handsome genie. "I am Gothar, the genie of the lamp. You are my master



and I will grant you three wishes," said the genie. "If you wish wisely, you will be happy for the rest of your life. If you are foolish, you will waste your wishes," warned the genie. "What is your first wish?"

Ahmed thought a minute before he wished. "I wish to be a powerful, wealthy sultan with many slaves and a banquet laid out in my honor," answered Ahmed. The genie snapped his fingers and there was a loud clap of thunder and a brilliant flash of lightning. The entire beach began to spin. Ahmed became dizzy and blacked out.

When Ahmed awake he was in a beautiful palace. He was seated on seft cushions and a beautiful girl was straking his head. There were large plates of food on tables before him. He smiled and reached for a toasted turkey. He began to gnow on a drumstick when he realized that Akim was missing. "Genie, where is my dog?" he asked.

"You did not wish for him to come with you. You were selfish and greedy, You thought only about your own comfort. Akim is on the beach where you left him," answered the wise, old genie.

Ahmed realized he'd been a fool. He could wish for anything and he'd thought only about comfort and wealth. He picked up the roasted turkey and held it in his hands. "I'm taking this back to the beach with me. Akim and I will share this meal like we've shared all of our meals in the past. After we've eaten, I'll decide on my third and final wish. I wish I were back on the beach with my dog!" shouted Ahmed.



The boy disappeared in a puff of smeke and in an instant he returned to the beach where Akim was still waiting. The dog barked happily and licked his master's face.

Gothar waited while Ahmed and Akim feasted on the turkey. The two friends consumed the entire bird, "Have you decided on your third wish?" asked Gother after the boy and his dog had finished eating.

"I have," answered Ahmed. "I wish that Akim and I could be the genies of the lamp, so we can help others as you have helped us."

Gother smiled. 'You are a wise lad, Ahmed. It is a good wish," said Gother. The genie snapped his fingers once again. Smoke clouded the beach. When the clouds disappeared, all that remained was the lamp. The sounds of a boy laughing and a dag barking could be heard echoing from inside it.

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I HOPE THEY BO FIND

A DOCTOR CALLE I THINK WE'RE GONNA NEED ONE!

